

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

06/03/15-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 31-0110

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

April 28, 2015

An Act providing for the temporary use by My Brother's Workshop of the Department of Human Services facility at Matricular No. 23-AA Estate Kingshill, St. Croix as a youth training center

PROPOSED BY: Senators Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly, Clifford F. Graham,
Kurt Vialet, Marvin A. Blyden and Kenneth L. Gittens

1 **WHEREAS, My Brothers Workshop is a non-profit Virgin Islands charitable**
2 **organization; and**

3 **WHEREAS, My Brother's Workshops mission is to provide hope, faith and purpose to at-**
4 **risk and high- risk youth by providing mentoring, counseling, education paid job training and job**
5 **placement; and**

6 **WHEREAS, My Brother's Workshop began as a personal crusade by its founder Scott**
7 **Bradley to provide training in the construction trades of carpentry, electrical and plumbing to help**
8 **young men he encountered in St. Thomas who were either school drop outs, drug dealers, gang**
9 **members or a combination thereof; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, as a result of Mr. Bradley's perseverance and the support of the
2 St. Thomas community over the last eight years, My Brother's Workshop has blossomed into an
3 organization that has assisted more than 400 young men and women, placing them in jobs or returning
4 them to an academic environment to further their education; and

5 **WHEREAS**, through this collective, collaborative effort, My Brother's Workshop has
6 bragging rights to an 83% success rate in the revitalization of the minds and spirits of its clientele;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshop in furtherance of its motto "Tools That Build Hope"
9 has established a crew of trained tradesmen and women who are hired by both the public and private
10 sector to custom build furniture as well as maintain and repair buildings and additionally has
11 established two retail establishments; a furniture store and a café bakery; and

12 **WHEREAS**, since My Brother's Workshop's excellent track record is now firmly established
13 on St. Thomas, its board has embraced the idea of expanding its services to St. Croix by establishing
14 a St. Croix branch; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to replicate the services provided by My Brother's Table on St.
16 Croix, a volunteer steering committee was established and has been working diligently over the last
17 four months to assess the needs of the program for expansion to its shores; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Steering Committee has learned that there is an available facility
19 on the Kingshill Human Services Complex which has not been used by the Department for several
20 years and is in need of repair; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Kingshill location is mid-island and easily accessible by public
22 transportation; and

1 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix needs a central, accessible location in which
2 it will provide training and life skill services to youth from throughout St. Croix; and

3 **WHEREAS**, construction trades training in carpentry, electrical and plumbing would
4 comprise the basic curriculum of My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the facility on the Kingshill Human Services Complex would be ideal for use
6 as the start-up location for My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix; and

7 **WHEREAS**, while using the location the skills of the trainees under the direction of their
8 trainers will be employed to refurbish the Kingshill building based upon the future needs of the
9 Department of Humans Services; and

10 **WHEREAS**, ultimately, My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix will secure a permanent location,
11 the use of the Kingshill facility will be returned refurbished for use by the Department of Human
12 Services; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this collaboration will fill a severe dearth of skills training on St. Croix; Now,
14 Therefore,

15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

16 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Human Services shall permit My Brother's Workshop to
17 use and occupy its Kingshill facility located at Matricular No. 23-AA Estate Kingshill King Quarter,
18 St. Croix, Virgin Brother's Workshop as a youth training center for a period of three years in exchange
19 for the refurbishing of the site according to specifications to be provided by the Department of Human
20 Services.

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BILL SUMMARY

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This bill provides for the temporary use of the Department of Human Services' Kingshill facility by My Brother's Workshop for use as a youth training center in exchange for refurbishing the facility.

BR15-0583/April 23, 2015/YLT